APPROVED
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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, January 25, 2016

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Abbas Aminmansour, Michael Bohlmann, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, John Hart, Prasanta Kalita, Calvin Lear, Sam LeRoy, William Maher, Anita Mixon, Kathryn Oberdeck, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto

Absent: Matthew Wheeler

Guests: President Timothy Killeen, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Jan Dennis, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Edward Feser, Associate Provost for Administrative Affairs Katherine Galvin, Shawn Gordon, Harry Hilton, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, Faculty & Academic Staff Benefits Committee Chair John Kindt, Rebecah Pulsifer, Rahul Raju, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson

Media: Daily Illini – Samantha Jones Toal, Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal, News-Gazette – Julie Wurth

A special meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, January 25, 2016 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

Chair Miller welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

President Killeen discussed several issues including:

- Budget – Although we are well into the fiscal year, a State budget is still not in place. The University has done all it can to influence an outcome in the right direction. A new coalition was launched last week to invest in public higher education. It was hoped that a breakthrough in the budget situation would occur in January, so the University is now anxiously awaiting the State of the State address by Governor Rauner on January 27. A meeting is scheduled for February 5 with the U of I Caucus which is a bi-partisan group of mostly alumni to meet with state legislators.

- Cost Savings – In response to the budget situation, a hiring freeze has been enacted which has resulted in a decrease in the number of total FTEs. Funds have been used creatively on all three campuses while being guided by the principles of the University's central mission. The University is delighted to have numerous world class faculty members, but remain worried about retaining key people while staying committed to excellence.

- Tuition Freeze – The Class of 2020 will pay the same tuition as the Class of 2014. The Board of Trustees approved the tuition freeze unanimously which makes a strong statement to the people of Illinois.

- State Compact – We are working with key legislators to generate support for a "compact" with the state that would ensure reliable, multiyear funding in exchange for meeting standards that serve the needs of the state as in enrollment, student access and affordability, and graduation rates.

It was questioned what SEC could provide in terms of input concerning the state "compact." President Killeen responded that if the compact moves forward then an in-depth conversation with the Senate on each campus would be needed about what a growth in enrollment would look like. He noted that those conversations would have to be realistic and portrayed to set goals based on a modern outlook for a statewide public education model that is working well on all fronts. He also noted that there are a number of strands coming

together to be worked on in parallel including the budget, strategic plan, philanthropy, more engaged alumni, accountability metrics, and transparency which must all be built on shared governance in practice.

It was commented that the Governor's office had expressed concerns with tuition continuously rising and questioning if funds are being spent wisely. It was questioned if this is a true concern by the Governor's office? President Killeen responded that it could be said tuition is high compared to some peers but steps are being taken to improve efficiency and effectiveness. He noted that sometimes perception lags reality so the University needs to stay the course and be very forthright in articulation on advances made and problems that we still face.

It was suggested to contact the former people who have worked on these issues who are now outside the system since they can provide experience and knowledge. President Killeen noted that all of the presidents of the public universities have been signing a series of letters and have weekly phone calls to remain in very close contact. He noted that there have also been editorials in support of the fundamentals of higher education. He commented that now is the time to hold our heads up high and highlight the value of what higher education provides.

Concern was noted with how regulations will impact the University. President Killeen commented that internal institutional agility is very important and the University continues to consider regulations that are slowing down progress and determining what can be done to improve the efficiency.

It was noted that there has been an increase in applications from out-of-state students and questioned what kind of diversity the University is receiving from outside of Illinois. President Killeen responded that the student population differs by campus and commented on the tuition break provided at UIC for adjacent out-of-state students. The University needs to serve the people of Illinois and also recognize that we can enrich that experience by having students from outside the state, including international students.

Frustration was expressed with the cost of academic administration coming out of Springfield and questioned how do we make administration more efficient while also maintaining effectiveness to attract top talent into those positions? President Killeen commented that the University must think through the approach differently and more innovatively.

President Killeen reported that he met with the three Chancellors several months ago to focus on student safety and discussed having a University-wide Student Safety Week (i.e., binge drinking, gun violence, etc.). Each campus has come forward with additional ideas.

Interim Chancellor Wilson recognized that James Anderson, Professor in Education, has been appointed as a Presidential Fellow to address areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. President Killeen noted that he and Professor Anderson believe culture is important to the University of Illinois experience including civic engagement, team building, and mentoring/advising. Anderson is an expert in these areas and can help move the campus forward.

President Killeen noted that the University is on the leading edge in many areas including pension and benefit issues, online learning, and civic and global engagement.

President Killeen thanked Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson and Interim Provost Edward Feser for stepping up to the plate in such an amazing way and helping the campus to move forward in a courageous way.

Chair Miller thanked President Killeen for the informative discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Franci Miller
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Senate Office